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Acad. Arts and Sci., Vol. XX., p. 336. . . . *Masclef's Atlas des Plantes de France utiles, nuisables et ornamentales* has reached Part X., and continues its promise of excellence. The later numbers have contained notably fine colored figures of *Ononis spinosa*, *Medicago sativa*, *Colutea arborescens*, *Pisum sativum*, *Coronilla varia*, *Amygdalus communis*, *Persica vulgaris*, *Prunus spinosa*, and *Cerasus vulgaris*. . . . Parts 44 and 45 of Engler and Prantl's *Die Naturlichen Pflanzenfamilien* continue the Euphorbiaceæ, complete the Myrsinaceæ, Primulaceæ, Plumbaginaceæ, and begin the Sapotaceæ. The last-named order is elaborated by Engler, the others by Pax. . . . Professor Gardiner and Mr. Brace published in the Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phil. an interesting provisional list of the plants of the Bahama Islands. . . . Another of the numerous valuable contributions from the Cryptogamic Laboratory of Harvard University has made its appearance in Proc. Am. Acad. Arts and Sciences, Vol. XXV., p. 53, by Wm. A. Setchell, on the "Structure and Development of *Tuomeya fluviatilis*, a red seaweed (*Florideæ*) intermediate between Lemanea and Batrachospermum. . . . The May number of *Pittonia* is an unusually interesting one, dealing as it does in its peculiarly sprightly way with half a dozen or more topics. The review of the new edition of Gray's Manual contains much plain talking, some of which may be deserved, while much certainly is not.

ZOOLOGY.

Snakes in High Places!—A discussion occurred some time ago in THE NATURALIST upon the question, "Do Snakes Climb Trees?" to which I contributed one or two items. But just now my farmer friend, Hiram Carpenter, who lives three miles out of town, invited me to call at his place and see where he found a snake four feet and three inches in length and one and a half inches in diameter. The swallows nest under the eaves of his barn, which project some twenty inches from the building. The rafters do not run out more than one-half or two-thirds of this distance, the space between them being quite thickly studded with the mud-nests of the swallows. One pleasant day in June his son noticed quite a commotion among the birds, and called him to the spot. They were amazed to see a large snake clinging to the end of a rafter, with its head in one of the nests, evidently devouring the young birds. The reptile was able to cling to the end of the rafter by hugging it tightly, and was only dislodged after some effort.

It had swallowed two young birds, and another was part way down its throat. The young man had not "believed in killing snakes," but on this occasion he despatched the reptile forthwith. The barn is sheeted up with rough pine boards, upon which there are two coats of paint, and from the ground to the point whence the snake was dislodged the distance is nineteen feet and four inches. How it managed to get to the spot seems altogether a mystery. There was no hole through the side of the barn nor under the roof boards, nor did it seem possible for it to have worked its way from the top of the roof. Then, it was quite as difficult for it to have found a way to the roof. Mr. Carpenter is a most reliable observer of all natural phenomena,—an investigator, really,—but he was unable to form any opinion as to how the reptile reached its prey. He described it as resembling the common garter-snake, except in the matter of its great size, hence I could form no idea as to the species to which it belonged.—CHARLES ALDRICH, *Webster City, Iowa, July, 14, 1890.*

Snakes in Banana Bunches.—Banana bunches brought from tropical America sometimes contain snakes of the family Boidæ, tightly wound round the central stem. A specimen of this kind was taken in Savanna, Georgia, and was sent to the United States National Museum. I identified it as the *Epicrates augulifer*, a native of Cuba. More recently a snake was found in a similar situation in a lot of bananas in Chicago, and was sent by Dr. J. L. Hancock to the National Museum. Dr. Stejneger has identified it as the *Boa imperator*, the common species of Central America and Mexico. The specimens are always young, as adult boas of the genera named could not be concealed in so small a space.—E. D. COPE.

ENTOMOLOGY.

Recent Literature.—Several notable entomological articles have been recently issued by the National Museum. Mr. Henry Edward's Bibliographical Catalogue of the Described Transformations of North American Lepidoptera, which forms Bulletin No. 35, is a very useful compilation, and ought to stimulate the study of the earlier stages of the group. There are 1,069 species included in the Catalogues, the Tineidæ heading the list with 222 entries, and Zygænidæ bringing up the rear with 13 entries.